

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as National Community Planning Month. This year's theme, "Civic Engagement," acknowledges that thoughtful local planning cannot happen without meaningful community involvement. National Community Planning Month provides an opportunity to recognize the essential role that planning plays in creating communities of lasting value.

Planning is the formal process of envisioning, mapping, and guiding how a community will look, grow, and define itself—its characteristics, attributes, and identity. As our communities continue to change and evolve, planners work to ensure that new developments are designed and built in harmony with existing surroundings. Planners carefully balance the needs and desires of residents against the challenges presented by physical, economic, and social change.

Planners strive to give citizens choices. From the types of homes we live in to how we choose to get around, planning helps ensure that we address the needs of everyone. A diverse and vibrant community is one that offers transportation and housing choices that are equitable and sustainable.

In my home state of Oregon, our commitment to planning became an official part of our state policy structure in 1973 with the passage of Senate Bill 100. We developed a strong planning program with nineteen Statewide Planning Goals, including promoting citizen involvement, stimulating economic development, and preserving ocean resources. Over forty years later, the "Oregon Story" of economic growth, sustainability, and deliberate development is as compelling as ever. I've worked very closely with the planners that have written that story and guided our region's growth, integrating statewide policies with the needs and interests of local communities.

As founder of the Congressional Livable Communities Task Force and Co-Chair of the Congressional Bike Caucus, I've sought to bring that understanding to Congress. From rebuilding and renewing America's infrastructure, protecting natural and urban resources, to supporting programs that enhance public health, we must find ways to improve the federal partnership with those who are engaged in the day-to-day work of creating livable communities. Planners are the gatekeepers of that partnership, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting National Community Development Month.

HONORING THE CROATIAN SONS LODGE NUMBER 170

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons

Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its Golden Member banquet, which will take place on Sunday, October 16, 2016.

The Croatian Fraternal Union will hold its gala at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained fifty years of membership include the following individuals: Lorraine Ackerman, Stephen Boskovich, Maria Cohen, Mildred Dobrinich, Pamela Ann Donlon, Carol Ann Gainey, Frank Gorski, Susan Grasham, Sally A. Kegley, Jo Anne Marzowski, Shirley Mertz, Joan Milosevich, Margaret M. Moore, Rudolph Dennis Mrak, Jeannine Barbara Pavic, Cheryl Kay Povlock, Thomas George Rykovich, Stephen Simatovich Jr., Robert Stipancic, Paul Mason Struble, John Anthony Tadey, Linda Ann Vukovich, and Louise Alice Wolotka.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President John Miksich and all members of the Croatian Fraternal Union, Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

CONGRATULATING UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Union Elementary School in Zionsville, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that Union Elementary School is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 329 schools were designated as 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools, making this recognition all the more impressive.

Union Elementary School provides students with a caring environment where both teach-

ers and parents collaborate with students to meet their full potential. Through a rigorous curriculum, including early literacy intervention and the integration of technology, students achieve academic excellence. Additionally, students have the opportunity outside of the classroom to participate in extracurricular activities to enhance their knowledge and interest in foreign languages, STEM fields, the arts, and many more disciplines.

As an advocate for education and youth, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at Union Elementary School give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Union Elementary School. I am very proud of you.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN RICKY CRISP

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Ricky Crisp of the McDowell County Sheriff's Department. On behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I would like to thank Captain Crisp for his 24 years of service in McDowell County.

Captain Crisp began work with the McDowell County Sheriff's Department in 1992 and soon became a full-time Deputy. He went on to serve as Patrol Deputy, Patrol Sergeant, and Detective. He was part of the McDowell County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard, a member of the Multi-Jurisdictional Highway Interdiction Team, and has also given his time as the Treasurer for Region C Criminal Justice Committee. By 2007, he had risen to the rank of Patrol Lieutenant and subsequently left to work as an investigator for the McDowell County District Attorney. In 2008, Captain Crisp returned to the McDowell County Sheriff's Department and served as Patrol Captain until his retirement.

For his decades of service, Captain Crisp was awarded numerous citations of appreciation and was nominated as the Law Enforcement Executive of the Year. Captain Crisp and his wife Tracy have been married for 30 years and have one daughter. In retirement, Captain Crisp leaves behind a long legacy of dedicated service to his Department and community.

Captain Crisp is highly regarded and appreciated by the citizens of McDowell County, and by the broader Western North Carolina community. He has truly embodied the Sheriff's Department's spirit of integrity and service. I am honored to express the sincere congratulations and best wishes of the people of North Carolina on his retirement.